A POWER COMIC

YULE VOTE THIS ISSUE A CRACKER!

POW!

No. 50
30th DEC. 1967
EVERY MONDAY
7d.

AUSTRALIA 10c. EAST AFRICA 1.00 WEST AFRICA 10d. SOUTH AFRICA 10c. RHODESIA 1/- NEW ZEALAND 1/- (10c.)

It happened one Christmas!!

YOUR POW! SHORT STORY

WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS? WELL, DON'T EXPECT BIG JIM WEEKES, ONE OF THE TOUGHEST TIMBER-MEN IN CANADA'S RUGGED NORTH-WEST, TO AGREE WITH YOU! AND IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE FANTASTIC, WE'LL TRY TO SHOW YOU WHY!

NOTHING WOULD KEEP BIG JIM AWAY FROM THESE CHRISTMAS PARTIES HE THROWS FOR THE KIDS. CHRISTMAS MEANS MORE TO HIM THAN ANY OTHER GUY I KNOW!

HERE'S YOUR PRESENT, JOHNNY, AND HERE'S SOMETHING SANTA CLAUS BROUGHT FOR YOU JANET!

FANCY THAT JANET STILL BELIEVING IN SANTA CLAUS! BUT STILL... SHE'S JUST A KID!

HOW ABOUT ME THEN, JOHNNY? AM I JUST A KID? BECAUSE I KNOW HE EXISTS...

YES, JOHNNY! I KNOW! BECAUSE... WHEN I WAS JUST ABOUT YOUR AGE... I SAW HIM!

SEE WHAT WE MEAN? AND BIG JIM IS A MAN WHO NEVER LIES! SO WHAT DID HAPPEN THAT CHRISTMAS SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO? WELL, NO-ONE, NOT EVEN BIG JIM, KNOWS FOR SURE. BUT WE'RE GOING TO RECONSTRUCT THE WHOLE THING... THE WAY WE THINK IT HAPPENED!

ON THAT LONG-AGO CHRISTMAS DAY SOMETHING HUGE, INVISIBLE, MOVING FAR FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF LIGHT, RUSHED EARTHWARDS FROM THE LIMITLESS OUTSPANS OF SPACE...

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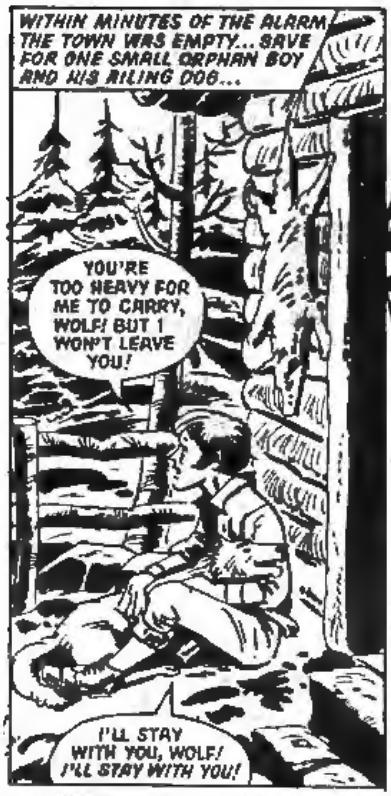
BULGING, FEAR-FILLED EYES SAW GREAT TREES FLATTENED AS IF BY AN INVISIBLE GIANT...
WHAT... WHAT IS IT? IT CAN'T BE A TORNADO!
I'M NOT STOPPING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS! LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!

AND FROM THAT AREA OF CRUSHED FOREST... SOMETHING WALKED...
IT'S SOME KIND OF MONSTER! CLEAR THE TOWN! GET EVERYONE OUT OF TOWN!
IT'S COMING AFTER US! HEADING THIS WAY!


WITHIN MINUTES OF THE ALARM THE TOWN WAS EMPTY... SAVE FOR ONE SMALL ORPHAN BOY AND HIS ailing DOG...
YOU'RE TOO HEAVY FOR ME TO CARRY, WOLF! BUT I WON'T LEAVE YOU!
I'LL STAY WITH YOU, WOLF! I'LL STAY WITH YOU!

JIM WEEKES, FOR IT WAS HE, CLOSED SPINDLY ARMS MORE TIGHTLY ABOUT THE SHIVERING BODY OF HIS ONLY FRIEND...
I... I'M SCARED, WOLF! JUST LIKE YOU ARE! BUT I WON'T LEAVE YOU. IF... IF IT IS GOING TO KILL US... THEN WE'LL DIE TOGETHER!
THEN FROM THE FOREST-EDGE CAME A VOICE MORE GENTLE AND KINDLY THAN ANY JIM HAD EVER HEARD...
DON'T BE AFRAID! PLEASE DON'T BE FRIGHTENED!
BUT... BUT WHO ARE YOU? WHY... CAN'T I SEE YOU? WHY DON'T YOU SHOW YOURSELF?

THERE WAS A MOMENT'S SILENCE. THEN...
IT... IT'S SANTA CLAUS!
NOW! NOW, DO YOU SEE THAT YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR?

THERE WAS NO FEAR NOW IN LITTLE JIM'S EYES, ONLY AWE AND WONDER...
I... THINK I MUST BE DREAMING! ARE YOU REALLY FATHER CHRISTMAS?
I SEE YOUR PET IS NOT WELL! WILL IT PROVE WHO I AM... THAT THIS IS NOT A DREAM... IF I MAKE YOUR DOG BETTER? LET ME CARRY HIM!

THAT THING THAT CAME DOWN IN THE FOREST! THAT FLATTENED THE TREES. WHAT WAS IT?
COME! I SHALL SHOW YOU THIS, TOO!

WHEN THEY REACHED THE PLACE IN THE FOREST WHERE THE 'SOMETHING' HAD LANDED, AN EVEN GREATER SURPRISE AWAITED JIM.....

G-G-GOSH! WHAT IS IT?

IT IS A SHIP, JIM. IT ENABLES ME TO FLY THROUGH SPACE, FROM PLANET TO PLANET. I'LL SHOW YOU INSIDE!

AS WITH WONDERING EYES, LITTLE JIM WALKED ABOUT THE IMMENSE CRAFT.....

IT..IT'S LIKE SOMETHING IN A BOOK TEACHER ONCE READ ME. I CAN'T READ, MYSELF. BECAUSE...WELL, I'M NOT VERY STRONG AND I HAVE TO STAY AWAY FROM SCHOOL A LOT....

YOU WILL BE FIT AND STRONG FROM NOW ON, BOY. I PROMISE YOU!

AND...WOLF! HE'S BETTER! HE'S NOT SICK ANY MORE!

YOU MADE HIM BETTER, SANTA CLAUS! DIDN'T YOU? YOU HEALED WOLF!

THEN.....

AND NOW, JIM, I MUST LEAVE YOU! I HAVE GREAT DISTANCES TO TRAVEL!

OF COURSE! THERE ARE MILLIONS OF BOYS AND GIRLS YOU MUST VISIT! YOU MUSTN'T DISAPPOINT THEM!

MINUTES LATER, THE GREAT SHIP LIFTED.....

GOODBYE, FATHER CHRISTMAS! GOODBYE! YOU'VE MADE ME THE HAPPIEST BOY IN THE WORLD...

THANK YOU, FATHER CHRISTMAS! AND THANK YOU FOR MAKING WOLF BETTER!

SLOWLY THE SPACESHIP LIFTED TO TREETOP HEIGHT. THEN, ABRUPTLY...

IT'S GONE! JUST LIKE THAT.... IT VANISHED!

JIM! JIM WEEKES! WHERE ARE YOU?

AS HE GAZED INTO THE EMPTY SKY, JIM FELT ONE BRIEF MOMENT OF SADNESS.....

HE DIDN'T LEAVE ME A PRESENT! HE MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN...

THERE HE IS!

BUT THEN THE SADNESS FADED... FOR EVER... FOR JIM WEEKES WAS NEVER AGAIN TO KNOW THE PANGS OF UNHAPPINESS.

BUT I'VE HAD THE BEST PRESENT ANY BOY EVER HAD! I SAW HIM! I SPOKE TO HIM! *I MET FATHER CHRISTMAS!*

THANK HEAVENS YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, BOY. WE WERE SCARED AND RAN...WE DIDN'T REALISE YOU WEREN'T WITH US!

FAR, FAR ABOVE EARTH SOMETHING INVISIBLE RUSHED BACK INTO THE UNKNOWN REACHES OF THE UNIVERSE.

YES, LEADER. MISSION HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. AS ORDERED I HAVE GIVEN *THE GIFTS OF HEALTH AND WISDOM* TO AN EARTH BEING. TO A BOY WHO, THOUGH HE WAS AFRAID, WOULD NOT LEAVE HIS DOG. TO A BOY WHO WAS LONELY AND FRAIL OF BODY ...*BUT WILL NEVER BE SO AGAIN!*

SO THE EARTH PEOPLE WERE AFRAID... BECAUSE THEY COULD NOT SEE YOU! HOW THEN DID YOU OVERCOME THIS BOY'S FEAR?

LEADER, YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT IN OUR LONG STUDY OF EARTH AND ITS PEOPLE WE HAVE NOTICED THAT AT THIS TIME OF YEAR THEY SEND EACH OTHER PICTURES OF AN OLD MAN WITH A WHITE BEARD AND RED GARMENTS. REALISING THAT HE MUST BE A MUCH-LOVED MAN AMONGST THE EARTHLINGS... *I ASSUMED HIS APPEARANCE!*

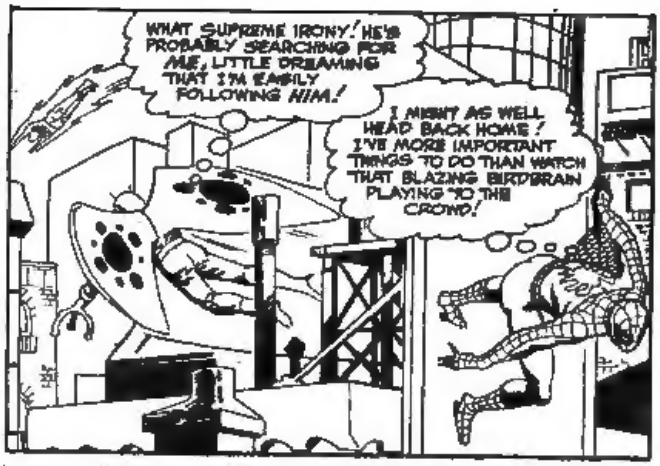
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK? WAS THAT THE WAY IT HAPPENED THAT CHRISTMAS? IS OUR GUESS, OUR RECONSTRUCTION OF WHAT HAPPENED CORRECT? OR DID JIM WEEKES REALLY SEE..... FATHER CHRISTMAS!

The End

SPIDER-MAN
"WHERE FLIES THE BEETLE...!"
GUEST-STARRING The HUMAN TORCH*
* THE HUMAN TORCH IS ONE OF THAT SUPER-HERO QUARTET—THE FANTASTIC FOUR! BART!
Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1965

WHEN A MAN HAS FINISHED HIS PRISON TERM, HE MUST BE SET FREE, TO TAKE HIS PLACE IN SOCIETY AGAIN! EVEN SUCH A MAN AS ABNER JENKINS, BETTER KNOWN TO VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AS.. THE BEETLE ...!
THEY HAD TO GIVE ME BACK MY BEETLE EQUIPMENT! THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST A MAN OWNING OR WEARING A COSTUME!
THEN, WHEN JENKINS REACHES A SECLUDED SPOT IN THE NEARBY WOODS..
THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE DREAMED OF ALL THESE MONTHS! ONCE AGAIN I'LL DON MY BEETLE OUTFIT, AND GET MY REVENGE AGAINST THE HUMAN TORCH!"
"A TALE YET UNTOLD" BART
A SHORT TIME LATER, AS A TYPICAL TEEN-AGE COUPLE WALK THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE BIG CITY...(OR, ARE THEY REALLY SO TYPICAL ??)
I'VE REALLY ENJOYED OUR DATE TODAY, JOHNNY! YOU ACTED LIKE A QUIET, NORMAL JOHNNY! WHAT IS IT?
THIS HEADLINE IN THE PAPER, DORIS! IT'S THE BEETLE! HE WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON TODAY!
BUT, THAT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU! HE'LL PROBABLY FADE INTO OBSCURITY AND... OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
I'M SORRY, HONEY! BUT I KNOW THAT JOKER! HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER NOW!
FLAME ON!
I'VE GOT TO SEARCH THE CITY. MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME TRACE OF HIM!
MEANWHILE, IN A QUIET SUBURBAN NEIGHBOURHOOD IN FOREST HILLS, WE FIND ANOTHER TYPICAL TEEN-AGER... (ABOUT AS TYPICAL AS JOHNNY STORM...!)
WHEW! I GUESS I'VE BEEN STUDYING TOO LONG! I'M GETTING A STIFF BACK! ONLY ONE THING TO DO...
..I'VE GOT TO GET THE KINKS OUT... AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO DO IT!
WITHIN SECONDS, YOUTHFUL PETER PARKER DONS ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS COSTUMES AND TAKES TO THE ROOFTOPS AS THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!!
MMM-BOY! THIS SURE BEATS DOING PUSH-UPS ALL HOLLOW!
BUT, EVEN SPIDER-MAN HAS TO REST SOONER OR LATER, AND, WHEN HE STOPS FOR A BREATHER, IN HIS OWN PECULIAR WAY...
UH-OH! I'VE BEEN SPOTTED!
LOOK! UP THERE! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!!
RUN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE'LL DO NEXT!!
WHY DOESN'T SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE?
RATS! I'M ABOUT AS WELL-LOVED BY MY FELLOW CITIZENS AS A FOX WOULD BE IN A CHICKEN-RUN!
HMM! IT'S A BIG NIGHT FOR SUPER-HEROES TONIGHT! THERE'S THE HUMAN TORCH, FLYING AROUND AS IF HE HAD SENSE!
OH, LOOK! IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH!!
HEY, TORCH! HOW ABOUT DOIN' A FEW TRICKS FOR US, PAL?!
NO SIGN OF THE BEETLE SO FAR, SO I MIGHT AS WELL PUT ON A LITTLE EXHIBITION FOR MY FANS!
WOW! LOOK AT THAT!
BOY! IF THAT DOESN'T TAKE THE CAKE! I APPEAR IN THE CITY, AND PEOPLE RUN FOR THE HILLS! BUT THAT FLAMING FREAK SHOWS UP, AND THEY KNOCK THEMSELVES OUT FALLING ALL OVER HIM!
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW, FOLKS! I'VE GOT A LITTLE JOB TO DO! KEEP 'EM FLYING!!
AHH! I'VE FOUND HIM, AT LAST! NOW TO SILENTLY FOLLOW WHILE I DECIDE HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM!
YAYYY! TORCH!

STILL NO SIGN OF THE BEETLE! I'D BETTER HEAD BACK BEFORE MY FLAME SPUTTERS OUT!


WHAT SUPREME IRONY! HE'S PROBABLY SEARCHING FOR ME, LITTLE DREAMING THAT I'M EASILY FOLLOWING HIM!
I MIGHT AS WELL HEAD BACK HOME! I'VE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN WATCH THAT BLAZING BIRDBRAIN PLAYING TO THE CROWD!

AND SO, OUR SMALL, COLOURFUL CAST OF CHARACTERS PART COMPANY... BUT, ONLY FOR THE TIME BEING! FLAMING OFF, JOHNNY STORM CALLS UPON HIS GIRL FRIEND, NOT SUSPECTING THAT THE BEETLE IS LURKING OUTSIDE...!
HI, DORRIE-DOLL! YOUR DREAM-BOAT'S BACK!
WHO INVITED YOU?

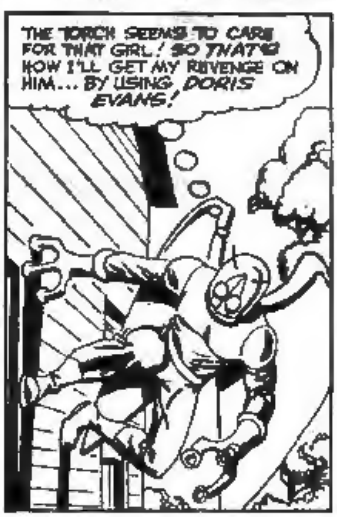
AWW, YOU'RE NOT ANGRY AT ME JUST 'CAUSE I FLAMED ON AND FLEW AWAY FOR A WHILE, ARE YOU?
OF COURSE NOT! I LOVE HAVING MY DATE SUDDENLY LEAVE ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET WHILE HE MAKES A SILLY, SMOKING SPECTACLE OF HIMSELF!

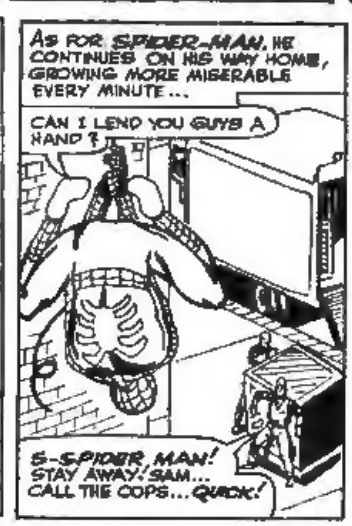
BUT, DORRIE...
NO "BUTS", JOHNNY STORM! I'VE HAD IT! I WANT A BOY FRIEND, NOT A BLAZING JUVENILE SHOW-OFF IN A SILLY UNIFORM!
LOOK, JUST GIVE ME ONE MORE CHANCE...!

VERY WELL THEN! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE! IF YOU CAN SPEND A FULL 24-HOURS WITHOUT FLAMING ON EVEN ONCE, I'LL MAKE BELIEVE THIS NEVER HAPPENED! BUT, IF YOU TURN INTO THE HUMAN TORCH AGAIN...!
DON'T WORRY! I WON'T! I PROMISE!

VERY WELL... WE'LL SEE! BUT REMEMBER... JUST ONE CRY OF FLAME ON... EVEN A WHISPER... OR JUST ONE LITTLE SPARK... AND YOU'D BETTER FORGET MY PHONE NUMBER!
IT'S A DEAL, LOVE OF MY LIFE! BUT, WHAT DID THEY FEED YOU WHEN YOU WERE A BABY? NAILS?

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE THE HOUSE...
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH! NOW I KNOW WHAT TO DO!


THE TORCH SEEMS TO CARE FOR THAT GIRL! SO THAT'S HOW I'LL GET MY REVENGE ON HIM... BY USING DORIS EVANS!


AS FOR SPIDER-MAN, HE CONTINUES ON HIS WAY HOME, GROWING MORE MISERABLE EVERY MINUTE...
CAN I LEND YOU GUYS A HAND?
S-SPIDER-MAN! STAY AWAY! SAM... CALL THE COPS... QUICK!

THAT DOES IT! I COULDN'T WIN A POPULARITY CONTEST EVEN IF I WAS THE ONLY ONE ENTERED! RATS!

THEN, THE VERY NEXT DAY...
IT'S HARD TO KEEP MY MIND ON MY SHOPPING! I'M SO ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHETHER JOHNNY IS KEEPING HIS PROMISE NOT TO FLAME ON!

HEY, TOMMY... COME BACK WITH MY FOOTBALL!
WATCH OUT, LADY!!
OWW! LOOK WHERE YOU'RE RUNNING, YOU LITTLE MONSTERS!

KIDS!! THEY MADE ME DROP ALL MY PACKAGES!
MAY I HELP YOU, MISS?

I SAW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WARN YOU OF THOSE RUNNING CHILDREN!
WHY, THANK YOU! HOW VERY KIND OF YOU!

IT WAS A PLEASURE! BE CAREFUL NOW... DON'T DROP THEM AGAIN!
WHAT A NICE, SWEET, GENTLEMANLY BOY!

UH-OH! LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE DROPPED HER WALLET IN THE CONFUSION!
I'D BETTER RETURN IT TO HER!

HMM... HER NAME'S DORIS EVANS! SHE DOESN'T LIVE FAR FROM HERE! WELL... I'VE GOT TIME... I'LL TAKE IT THERE NOW!

AND SO...
MY WALLET! OH, I'M SO LUCKY YOU FOUND IT! I SIMPLY MUST GIVE YOU A REWARD!
DON'T BE SILLY! I WAS GLAD TO DO IT!
WELL, AT LEAST COME IN AND LET ME FIX YOU A GLASS OF COKE!
THANKS! I COULD SURE USE ONE!

THEN, FOR THE NEXT FEW MINUTES...
YES, I LIVE WITH MY AUNT IN A SMALL HOUSE OF OUR OWN, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HERE!
HE'S SO QUIET, SO SOFT-SPOKEN AND GENTLEMANLY! HE'S A SCIENCE MAJOR AT SCHOOL, AND HE'S SO CULTURED AND DOWN-TO-EARTH! IF ONLY JOHNNY WERE MORE LIKE PETER PARKER!

MINUTES LATER, THINGS GET EVEN MORE INVOLVED AS JOHNNY STORM ARRIVES AT DORIS' HOUSE JUST IN TIME TO SEE THE DEPARTURE OF PETER PARKER!
I WONDER WHO THAT GUY IS? HE JUST WALKED OUT OF DORRIE'S HOUSE!

WELL, DORRIE... IT'S BEEN TWELVE HOURS SO FAR, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FLAMED ON!
BY THE WAY... WHO WAS THAT GUY WHO JUST LEFT HERE?
HMM! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TRY TO MAKE JOHNNY MORE OF A GENTLEMAN, LIKE THAT NICE, REFINED PETER PARKER!

HIS NAME IS PETER PARKER, JOHNNY! HE'S A STUDENT AT MIDTOWN HIGH, AND HE'S JUST THE NICEST BOY! HE'S INTERESTED IN POLITICS, SCIENCE AND CURRENT EVENTS!
WELL, GOODY GUMDROPS!

IT WOULDN'T DO YOU ANY HARM TO TAKE A LEAF FROM HIS BOOK, JOHNNY STORM! IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF SOME OF HIS POISE AND POLISH WERE TO RUB OFF ON YOU!
OH, BRO-THER!

WHILE, OUTSIDE DORIS' HOUSE AGAIN...
NOW I KNOW JUST WHAT TO DO! THE NEXT TIME I SEE THE HUMAN TORCH... IT WILL BE IN THE FULL, FIGHTING ARMOUR OF... THE BEETLE!

NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, PETER PARKER, WINDOW SHOPPING WITH BETTY BRANT, HEARS HIS NAME CALLED IN A COMMANDING TONE...!
PARKER! I WANT TO SEE YOU!
NOW WHAT?

I KNEW I'D FIND HIM SOONER OR LATER... AND I'M GLAD I THOUGHT OF WEARING MY UNIFORM... TO IMPRESS HIM!
RECOGNIZE WHO I AM, KID?
SURE! EITHER YOU'RE THE HUMAN TORCH, OR SOME JERK WALKING AROUND IN HIS PYJAMAS!
OR MAYBE BOTH!

SKIP THE WISE-CRACKS, SKINNY! I JUST WANT TO WARN YOU... DORIS EVANS IS MY GAL FRIEND... AND I HOPE YOU'RE NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO THINK YOU CAN BEAT MY TIME!
WELL, I'LL BE A SPIDER-WEBBED STRINGBEAN!! OL' HOTHEAD IS ACTUALLY JEALOUS OF ME!

JUST IMAGINE IF HE SUSPECTED WHO I REALLY AM! WOW!
HEY... LOOK, GUYS! ISN'T THAT THE HUMAN TORCH TALKING TO PUNY PARKER??
HE'S TELLING PETER TO STAY AWAY FROM SOME OTHER GIRL! AND I NEVER EVEN SUSPECTED!

I MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE NOW! HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYWAY!
BETTY... WAIT...!!
SHE'S SOBBING! SHE MUST HAVE OVERHEARD THE TORCH!

YOU BRAINLESS, SWELL-HEADED, LOUD-MOUTHED JERK! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SHOOTING OFF YOUR YAP AT??

HUH???

YOU MAY BE A BIG, BRAVE SUPER-HERO TO EVERYONE ELSE... BUT TO *ME*, YOU'RE JUST A KNUCKLE-HEADED PAIN-IN-THE NECK.!! GET THE MESSAGE??

THIS! DIDN'T EXPECT! I CAN'T EVEN TAKE A POKE AT HIM... IT WOULDN'T BE FAIR! HE WOULDN'T HAVE A *CHANCE*!

HOW *ABOUT* THAT, FLASH? I NEVER KNEW PARKER HAD SUCH *GUTS*!

MAYBE HE'S *NOT* REALLY SUCH A CISSY!

OH, STOW IT! DON'T LET HIM *FOOL* YOU! HE *KNOWS* THE TORCH WOULDN'T DARE FIGHT WITH HIM! A SUPER-POWERED MEMBER OF THE F.F. CAN'T GO AROUND BEATING UP NOBODIES!

SURE, FLASH IS *RIGHT*! PARKER WAS JUST TRYING TO *IMPRESS* EVERYBODY!

I JUST DON'T *GET* IT! WHAT CAN PORRIE SEE IN A BIG ZERO LIKE *HIM*??

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LESSON FROM *SPIDER-MAN*, TORCHY! *HE* WOULDN'T HAVE LET ANYONE TALK TO HIM LIKE THAT!

I'D BETTER CUT OUT, FAST! THEY *KNOW* I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE, SO THEY'RE TRYING TO TAUNT *ME* NOW!

MEANWHILE, PETER HAS CAUGHT UP TO THE DISILLUSIONED YOUNG SECRETARY...

I'D LIKE TO EXPLAIN ABOUT WHAT THE TORCH SAID, BETTY...!

THERE'S NOTHING TO EXPLAIN, PETER! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO JUST GO HOME NOW!

I *KNOW* HE DIDN'T MEAN IT... BUT STILL... IT'S ALL THAT MISERABLE HUMAN MATCHSTICK'S FAULT!

I COULDN'T EVEN HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF *FIGHTING* WITH HIM... OF WIPING THAT CONCEITED SMIRK OFF HIS FACE!

HE'D *NEVER* FIGHT WITH PETER PARKER, BECAUSE...

...HE'D THINK I'M TOO *WEAK* FOR HIM!!

OH, WELL... I GUESS THERE'S NO SENSE MAKING A MOUNTAIN OUT OF A MOLEHILL! BETTY IS SURE TO MAKE UP WITH ME BEFORE LONG... AND THE TORCH CAN GO FRY FOR ALL I CARE!

BUT... *WAIT* A MINUTE! WHILE BETTY *IS* MAD AT ME, WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE A LITTLE *FUN* WITH THE TORCH? IF HE'S JEALOUS OF *PETER PARKER*...

...HOW WOULD HE FEEL IF *SPIDER-MAN* MADE A PLAY FOR HIS GAL??! THE POOR GUY'LL *EXPLODE*!

AND, I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT WINDBAG TRY TO THREATEN ME *NOW*!!

BUT, EVEN AS SPIDEY PREPARES TO VISIT DORIS EVANS AGAIN...

THE TORCH IS BOUND TO APPEAR SOON! THEY HAVE A DATE LATER TONIGHT!

AND, WHEN THE UNSUSPECTING BRAT SHOWS UP, I'LL FINISH HIM OFF AS ONLY THE *BEETLE* CAN!

WHO'S *THAT*?? IT... IT'S *SPIDER-MAN*!

OH, *NO*! I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO DESTROY MY CAREFULLY LAID PLANS!

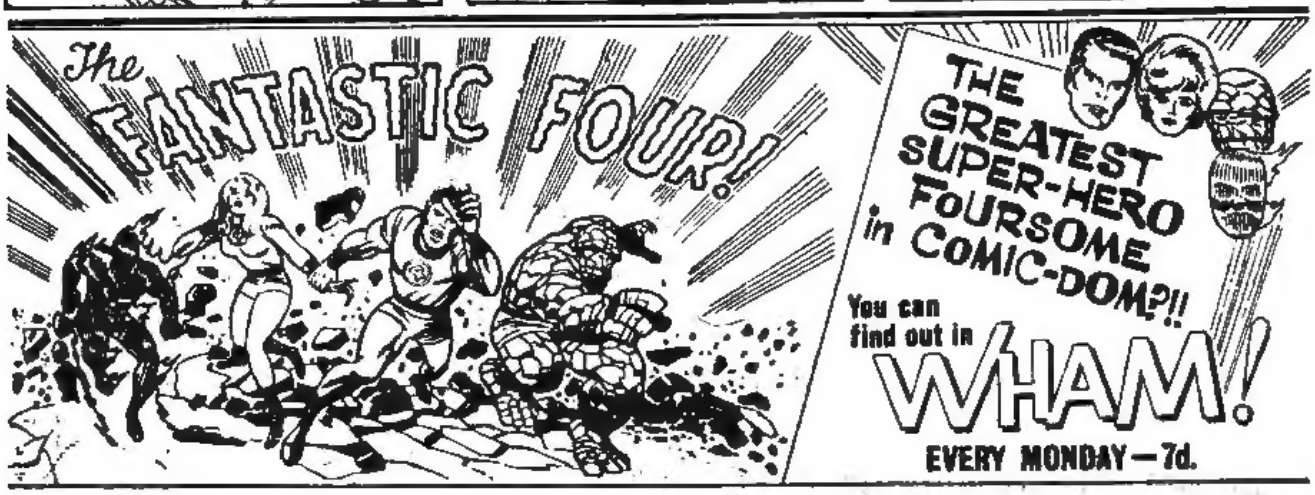
WHATEVER HIS PURPOSE HERE MAY BE, I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE *POSTPONES* IT TILL I'M DONE!

HOLY SMOKE! *NOW* WHAT HAVE I BLUNDERED INTO?

THE *BEETLE*! THE *TORCH'S* OLD ENEMY! I'VE SEEN YOUR PICTURE IN THE PAPER... BUT... WHAT...?

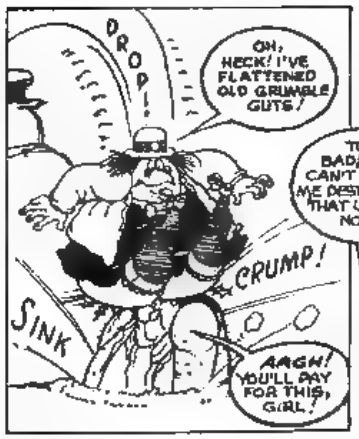
SAVE YOUR BREATH, MISTER! THIS ISN'T *TWENTY QUESTIONS*!

THERE! THE IMPACT OF HITTING THAT TREE SHOULD KNOCK YOU OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO FINISH MY LITTLE PROJECT!
BOY! DID YOU JUST MAKE A MISTAKE!! YOU MADE ME INTERESTED IN WHAT YOUR PROJECT IS!!
SO I THINK I'LL JUST HANG AROUND UNTIL I FIND OUT!
THWAP!
NOW, JUST STAY WHERE YOU ARE, BEETLE... I WON'T KEEP YOU WAITING LONG!
GOT YOU!!
BUT, AS SPIDER-MAN HURTLES BACK TOWARDS HIS FOE...
I THOUGHT THOSE METAL WINGS WERE JUST ORNAMENTS!
BUT, JUST MY LUCK... THE BEETLE CAN REALLY FLY!
JUST WAIT'LL HE TRIES IT, WITH MY QUICK-DRYING WEB STICKING TIGHTLY TO BOTH TIPS OF HIS WINGS!
THIS TIME I WON'T BE SO GENTLE WITH YOU! I'LL HURL YOU TO THE GROUND LIKE A SACK OF POTATOES!
BUT, TRY IT THE BEETLE DOES... TO HIS SHOCKED REGRET!
HAPPY LANDINGS, SONNY BOY!
CLANK!
UH-OH!... THIS GUY IS NO CINCH TO BEAT! THAT ARMOUR HE'S WEARING MUST BE TWO INCHES THICK!
POINNG
OH, I NEGLECTED TO MENTION... MY WINGS ARE OFFENSIVE WEAPONS, AS WELL AS DEFENSIVE!
...BUT I GUESS YOU'RE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT!
THUNK!
TRYING A FLIPOVER WON'T HELP YOU, EITHER! ALL I NEED DO IS FLY UP FROM BENEATH YOU AND I'LL DO THE FLIPPING!
I'M NOT FIGHTING AN AMATEUR! I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREF... OOF!!
SAVE YOUR BREATH, SPIDER-MAN! YOU WON'T HAVE IT MUCH LONGER!
OKAY, YOU OVERGROWN MOTH!... YOU HAD YOUR INNINGS!! NOW I'LL FURNISH A LITTLE OF THE ENTERTAINMENT!
...BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT TILL NEXT WEEK TO ENJOY THE FUN, FANS! SEE YOU!!


The FANTASTIC FOUR!
THE GREATEST SUPER-HERO FOURSOME in COMIC-DOM?!!
You can find out in
WHAM!
EVERY MONDAY—7d.

The Dolls of St. Dominic's

AAGH! SHE'S HARPOONED ME!
HOW'S THAT THEN? I GUESS IT MUST BE THE CHRISTMAS MOLLY-DAYS! HEH! HEH!


DROP!
OH, HECK! I'VE FLATTENED OLD GRUMBLE GUTS!
SINK
CRUMP!
AAGH! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, GIRL!

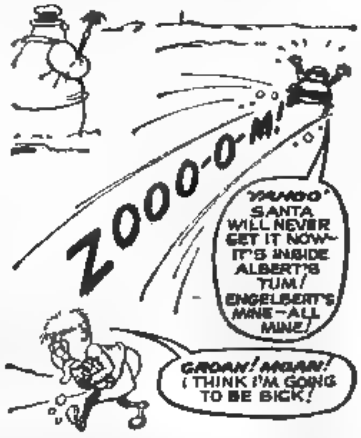
TOO BAD! YOU CAN'T STOP ME DESTROYING THAT LETTER NOW!

HELP! WHERE'S THE THING GONE?

GRR! ALBERT'S GOT IT!
HO! HO! LISTEN TO THIS- "DEAR SANTA - I LOVE ENGELBERT - I'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIM - PLEASE PUT HIM IN ME STOCKING" HEH! HEH!

SPY ON MARIGOLD'S LETTER, WOULD YOU? THAT LETTER WAS SECRET, AND YOU KNOW WHAT SPIES DO WITH SECRETS - EAT THEM! HEH! HEH!
AAGH! GLUG! STOP! GLUK!

COME ON! COME ON! IF THAT HAD BEEN A JELLY BABY YOU'D HAVE FINISHED IT, BY NOW!
CHOMP! CHOMP!


ZOOO-O-M!
YAHOO! SANTA WILL NEVER GET IT NOW- IT'S INSIDE ALBERT'S TUM! ENGELBERT'S MINE - ALL MINE!
GROAN! MOAN! I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!

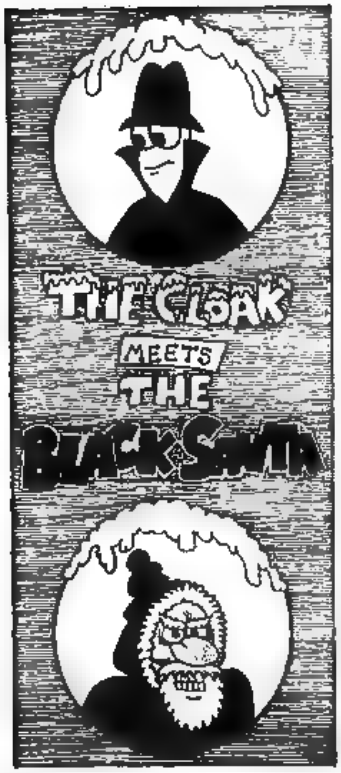
GRRR! I WON'T HAVE TIME TO WRITE ANOTHER LETTER LIKE THAT- IT TOOK ME TWO WHOLE DAYS TO WRITE THAT ONE!

I SAY WHAT'S OLD MARIGOLD SO HET UP ABOUT?
YAHOO! I KNOW! I DON'T NEED TO WRITE ANOTHER LETTER - MARIGOLD'S GOT BRAIN AS WELL AS BODY BEAUTIFUL!
MISS BOLSTER

CHRISTMAS NIGHT.
AAH! GOOD! THEY'RE ALL FAST ASLEEP!
TIP-
TOE!

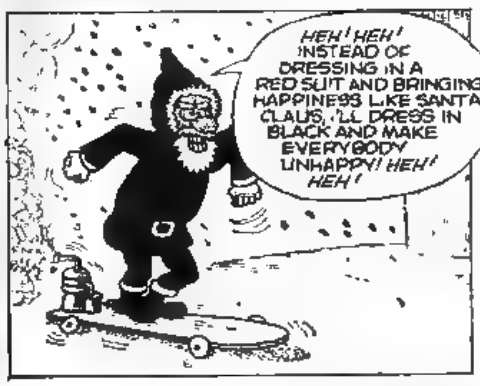
ERK!
NOT ALL, MATE - I AIN'T!

DEAR SANTA, MARIGOLD LOVES ENGELBERT - SHE'D DO ANYTHING FOR HIM - PLEASE PUT HIM IN HER STOCKING! - AND IF YOU GIVE HIM TO LULU SHE'LL PERSONALLY TIE YOUR BEARD IN KNOTS AND CHEW UP YOUR BOOTS!
WHY CAN'T SHE JUST WRITE A LETTER LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE?


THE CLOAK
MEETS
THE
BLACK SANTA

THIS IS FESTER MCBOOB, A RATHER CROCHETY EX-ROLLER SKATE MANUFACTURER DOWN ON HIS LUCK.
...AND NOW THE SEASON IS BRINGING BACK PAINFUL MEMORIES!
GRR! IT'S CHRISTMAS AGAIN! I HATE THIS TIME OF YEAR! IT WAS THE CHRISTMAS OF '53 WHEN ALL THE BALL BEARINGS FELL OUT OF ME ROLLER SKATES AND I WENT BANKRUPT! I AIN'T HAD A HAPPY CHRISTMAS SINCE!

HEH! HEH! THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT THIS YEAR! I'M GOING TO MAKE EVERYONE ELSE'S CHRISTMAS MISERABLE! YUK! YUK!


HEH! HEH! INSTEAD OF DRESSING IN A RED SUIT AND BRINGING HAPPINESS LIKE SANTA CLAUS, I'LL DRESS IN BLACK AND MAKE EVERYBODY UNHAPPY! HEH! HEH!

VROOM!!
NYAHAHAHAHA! BEWARE OF THE BLACK SANTA!

WAGES OFFICE
ZOOM!
YUK! YUK! WITHOUT WAGES NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO BUY ANY PRESENTS!

I'LL BURN THE POST SO NO CHRISTMAS CARDS WILL GET DELIVERED!

I'LL MAKE SURE THEY DON'T ENJOY THEMSELVES!

ZOOM!
NOEL
NOEL
NOEL
HA! THIS PEPPER WILL STOP THE TWITS SINGING!

ATISHOOO!
SNEEZE! COUGH!
ACHOO!
HEE! HEE! BY THE TIME THEY GET THEIR VOICES BACK, CHRISTMAS WILL BE OVER!

AND SO IT GOES ON.
Daily Blah
TOY FACTORY BURNED DOWN!
HUNDREDS OF XMAS TOYS DESTROYED

MEANWHILE.
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS BLACK SANTA CHAPPIE OR HE'LL RUIN CHRISTMAS FOR EVERYONE!
LEAVE IT TO ME, CHIEF. THIS WILL BE THE FASTEST CROOK CATCHING CAPER ON RECORD!

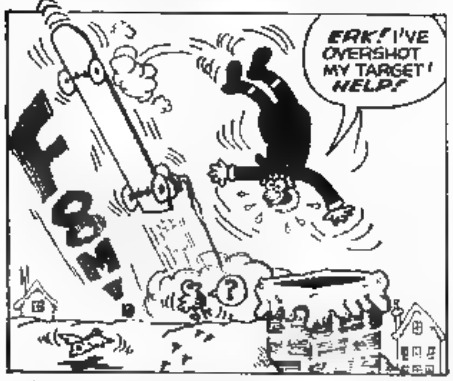
HOO, BOY! THAT'S MESSED UP THE CHRISTMAS DINNERS! I'VE PUT SALT ON THE CHRISTMAS PUDS AND STUFFED THE TURKEYS WITH TREACLE!
SWOOOSH!!

AHA! A GIANT CHRISTMAS PRESENT! I'LL SOON GET RID OF THAT! I WONDER WHAT'S IN IT, THOUGH?
MERRY XMAS

MERRY XMAS
HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR PRESENT? IT'S A CLOAK-IN-THE BOX!
GARRAH!

YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME! I'M THE GREATEST!
THAT'S FUNNY, I'VE HEARD THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE!
VOOM!

HEE! HEE! I'LL MAKE A FLYING ESCAPE OVER THE ROOFTOPS!


ERK! I'VE OVERSHOT MY TARGET! HELP!
FLOP!

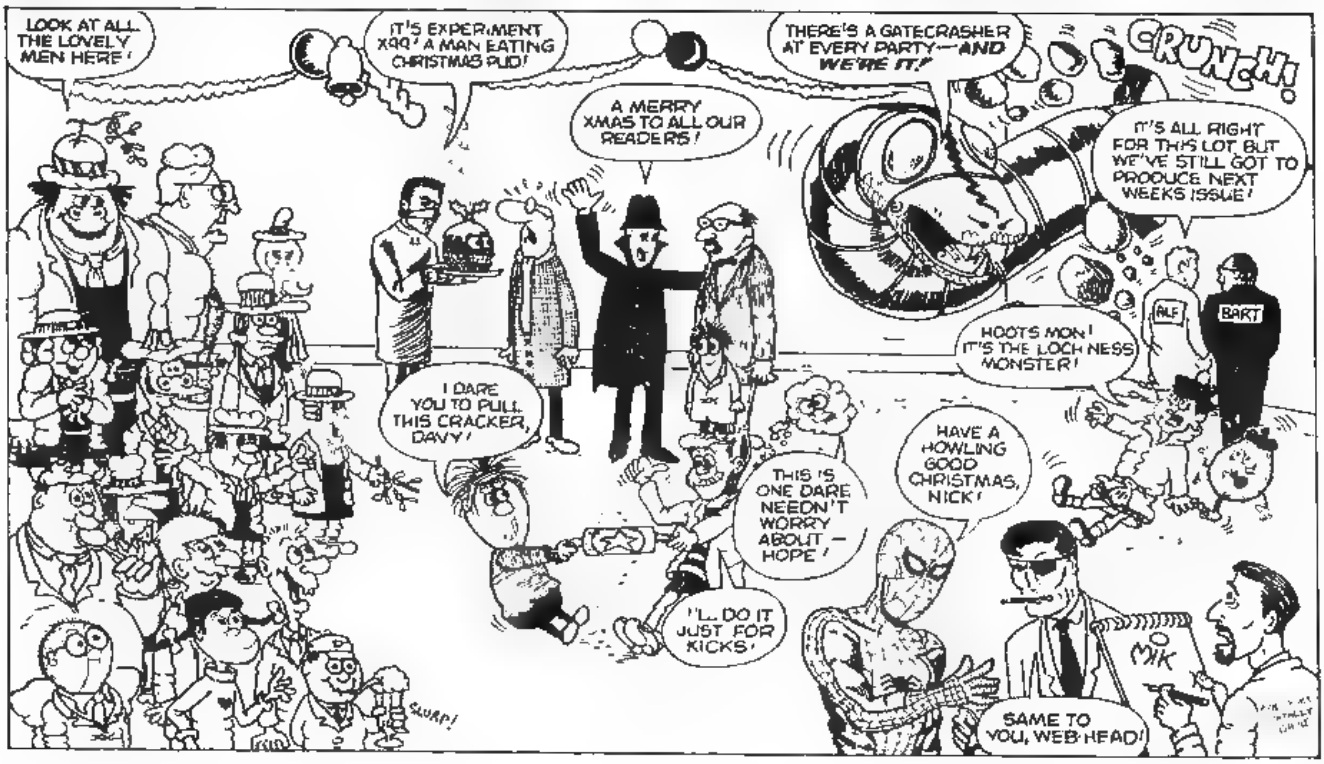
CRUNCH!
AAAGH!
PLOP!

BY THE HOUSE BELOW...
HA! HA! NOW YOU REALLY ARE A BLACK SANTA! A COAL BLACK SANTA!
GROUGH!
COUGH! SPLUTTER!

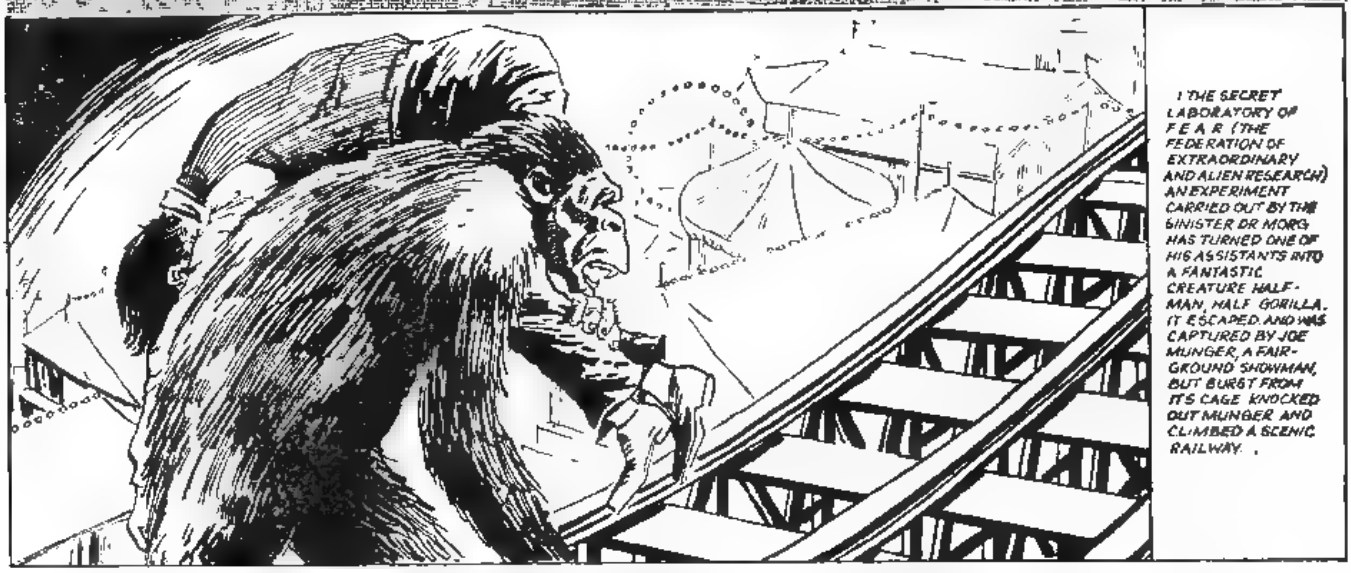
LATER.
GROAN! IT'S GOING TO BE ANOTHER CRUMBY CHRISTMAS FOR ME! AND IT'S ALL MY OWN FAULT! SOB!
NOEL

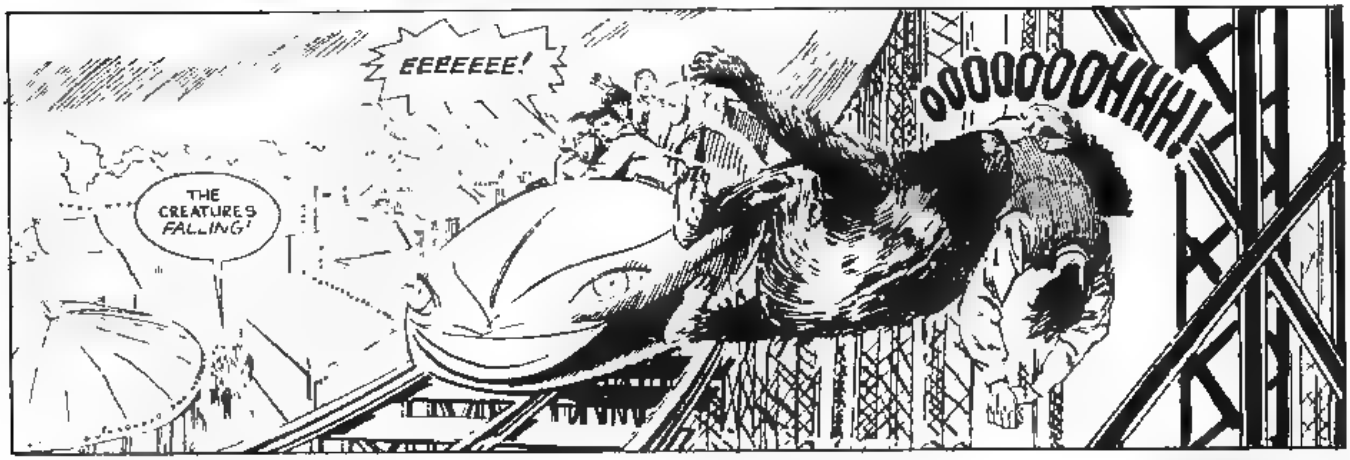
WELL DONE, CLOAK! YOU CAUGHT THE BLACK SANTA AND NOW WE CAN ALL HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!
THAT'S THE BEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT I COULD WISH FOR!

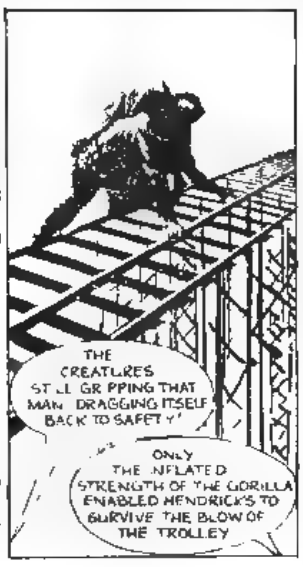
POW
STAFF ONLY
COME ON, IT'S TIME FOR OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!


LOOK AT ALL THE LOVELY MEN HERE!
IT'S EXPERIMENT X99! A MAN EATING CHRISTMAS PUD!
A MERRY XMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!
THERE'S A GATECRASHER AT EVERY PARTY—AND WE'RE IT!
CRUNCH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR THIS LOT, BUT WE'VE STILL GOT TO PRODUCE NEXT WEEK'S ISSUE!
ALF
BART
HOOTS MON! IT'S THE LOCH NESS MONSTER!
I DARE YOU TO PULL THIS CRACKER, DAVY!
THIS IS ONE DARE NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT — HOPE!
HAVE A HOWLING GOOD CHRISTMAS, NICK!
I'LL DO IT JUST FOR KICKS!
MIK
SAME TO YOU, WEB-HEAD!
SLURP!

EXPERIMENT X







EVEN AS THE LEATHER-MASKED SCIENTIST SPEAKS.
DR. MORG, THERE ARE SOME MEN WHO SAY THEY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE CREATURE'S VICTIM!

IT IT AINT OUR FAULT, MISTER, HONEST! WE TOLD OLD JOE NOT TO TOUCH IT!

JOE MUNGER'S TERRIFIED PARTNERS BABBLE HOARSELY.
THAT THING'S GOT IT IN FOR JOE, BECAUSE HE SHUT IT IN THE CAGE! IT IT'S GOING TO KILL HIM, I KNOW IT IS!
YOU'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM!

IGNORING HIS COMPANIONS, THE MASTER OF EXPERIMENT 'X' WALKS TOWARDS THE FOOT OF THE SCENIC RAILWAY.
YOUNG MAN CAN YOU REGULATE THE SPEED OF THIS CARRIAGE?
I—I RECKON SO, MATE BUT THIS AINT NO TIME TO TAKE A RIDE!

LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF THAT! TAKE ME UP SLOWLY BE READY TO BRAKE THE INSTANT I GIVE THE SIGNAL! I SHALL DO WHAT I CAN WITH THE HYPO-GUN!
NO, DOCTOR COME BACK!

LET HIM GO! IT WAS MORG WHO CREATED THAT THING UP THERE!
HE'S NOT WORRIED ABOUT MUNGER. HE JUST WANTS TO KEEP HIS PRECIOUS FREAK ALIVE!

SLOWLY THE TROLLEY RUMBLES TOWARDS HENDRICKS.
HENDRICKS DON'T BE AFRAID! YOUR ORDEAL IS OVER! IT'S ME, MORG!

THE CREATURE PAUSES. ..THEN A SHRILL GARBLED CRY RINGS FROM ITS THROAT.
EEESSSHH!
MOOORRG!
BY THE POWERS... SO YOU RECOGNISE ME EH? THERE IS STILL A SPARK OF HUMANITY LEFT!

JOE MUNGER'S UNCONSCIOUS FIGURE SLITHERS FROM THE POWERFUL ARMS.
AND NOW I AM GOING TO PUT YOU TO SLEEP! JUST A. UUHHH? NO! HENDRICKS KEEP BACK!
RAEEEEEGGH!

AAAAAHHHH!
IS THIS THE LAST OF DR MORG? THE LAST EXPERIMENT X? FIND OUT — NEXT WEEK!

THE GROUP

BRAIN

LUVVY

FATBO

STUPID

SHRIMP

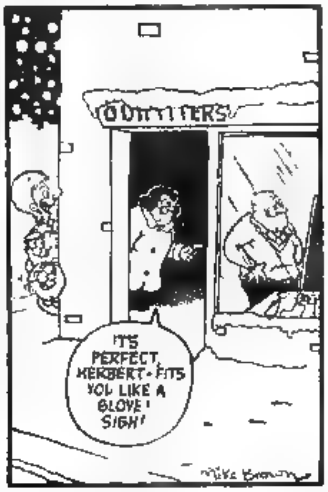
RINGO

THE LADS AIN'T SATISFIED WITH NORMAL SOCKS TO HANG UP FOR CHRISTMAS – I RECKON THEY'RE GETTING GREEDY!
HAPPY XMAS TO ALL OUR MATES FROM BRAIN, RINGO, LUVVY, SHRIMP, STUPID, FATBO
MERRY XMAS TO THE GROUP FROM THE LADS ON FLOOR OF BEL – AIR BAR COS IT'S, KEN

WE AIN'T GREEDY! WE JUST LIKE A LOT! HEH! HEH!

WELL! THAT'S YOUR LOT – I'VE RUN OUT OF WOOL! I CAN'T KNIT IT ANY BIGGER!
GRR! THAT AIN'T BIG ENOUGH YET! THAT'LL HARDLY HOLD A TWENTY FOOT TWO-TON SAUSAGE I'M ASKING SANTA FOR!
EXHAUSTED

COME ON, LADS! WE'LL HAVE TO GET LUVVY SOME MORE WOOL!
YEAH! SOME KNIT FOR THAT NIT


OUTFITTERS
IT'S PERFECT, HERBERT – FITS YOU LIKE A GLOVE! SIGH!

EEK! IT'S SHRINKING ALREADY – AND THAT'S MEANT TO BE NON-SHRINK WOOL!

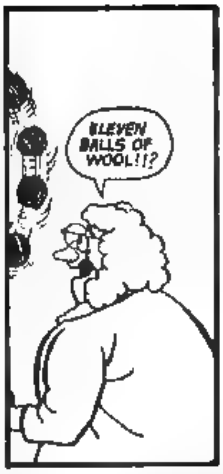
OUTFITTERS
A JUMPER THAT FITS LIKE A GLOVE WILL MAKE A SMASHING SOCK!
TING!
OOH! YOU ARE THE CLEVER ONE, BRAIN!

LAST BIT COMING UP LADS!
TUG!

HEH HEH! THEY DIDN'T FOOL ME! THEY DIDN'T PULL THE WOOL OVER MY EYES! THEY MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THE REST OF THE SHEEP!
BOP!
EEK!

BAH! WE'D BETTER TRY SOMEWHERE ELSE – THAT MAN'S GOT NO CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

GOSH! THAT'S CLEVER, SONNY, I COULDN'T JUGGLE WITH TWELVE BALLS OF WOOL!


ELEVEN BALLS OF WOOL!!?

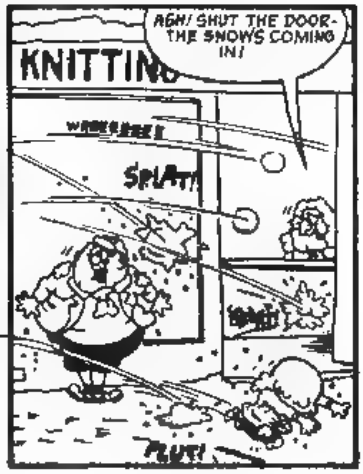
TEN BALLS OF WOOL!!?

KEEP FIT - AND KNIT!
GRR! SO THAT'S WHERE THEY'RE GOING - THERE'S A RAID ON!

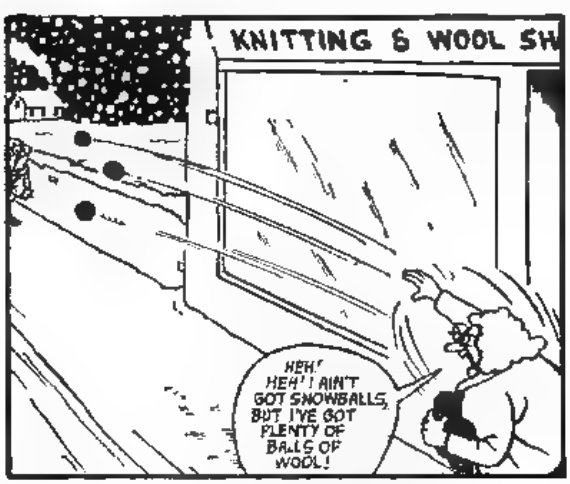
KNITTING AND WOOL SHOP
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, SHRIMP - AT THE DOUBLE!
I RECKON WE'D BETTER TRY SOMETHING ELSE, O FAT ONE! GULP!

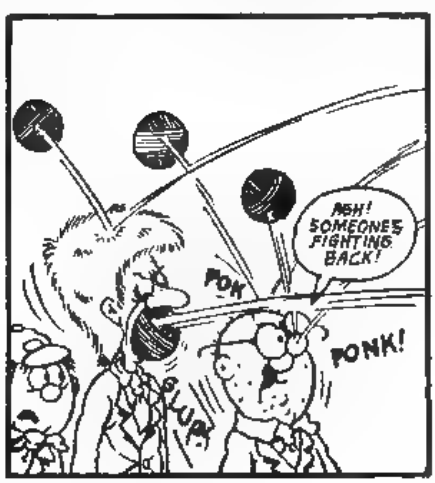
AGH! A GREAT SOGGY SNOWBALL WHO THREW THAT?

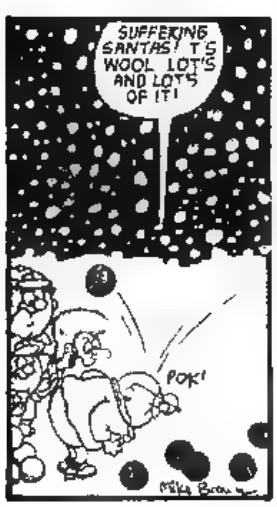
GRR! TRUST YOU TWO TWERPS TO SPOIL EVERYTHING - THAT WAS A BRILLIANT GAG OF MINE AND YOU MUCKED IT UP!
YEAH! YEAH!


AGH! SHUT THE DOOR - THE SNOWS COMING IN!
KNITTING
SPLAT!
PLUT!

GRR! SO THEY WANT A FIGHT, DO THEY? I'LL GIVE THEM A FIGHT!
SCOOP!


KNITTING & WOOL SH
HEH! HEH! I AIN'T GOT SNOWBALLS, BUT I'VE GOT PLENTY OF BALLS OF WOOL!


AGH! SOMEONE'S FIGHTING BACK!
POK
PONK!


SUFFERING SANTAS! IT'S WOOL LOTS AND LOTS OF IT!
POK!

KNITTING & WOOL SHOP
I REALLY MUST LEARN TO CONTROL MY TEMPER! SIGH!

YAHOO! COME ON, LUVVY - SPEED IT UP!
ROLL ON TOMORROW! YEOW!
I THINK I'LL ASK SANTA FOR A KNITTING MACHINE!
RINGO

KiCKs

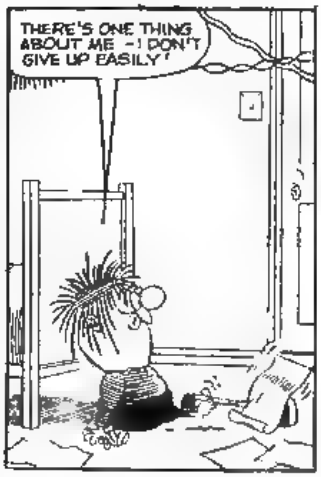
TO-MORROW IS THE DAY WHEN THE ONLY GROWN-UP I LIKE COMES— SANTA CLAUS!

IF ONLY ALL GROWN-UPS WERE LIKE SANTA CLAUS LIFE WOULD BE A LOT HAPPIER FOR US KIDS!

ARGH! I'VE HIT ME THUMB! WAA AAH!

WHAT DO I DO NOW? I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WRITE MY LETTER TO SANTA—I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THE PEN!

BAH! I'M USELESS WITH MY LEFT HAND— SANTA WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO READ THIS!


THERE'S ONE THING ABOUT ME —I DON'T GIVE UP EASILY!

BAH! ALL I SUCCEEDED IN DOING WAS COVERING MY LEG AND FOOT IN BLINKING BLUE BLACK INK!

I'M REALLY GETTING MY TEETH INTO THE PROBLEM NOW!

AAGH! I'VE PRESSED TOO HARD I'VE GOT INK ALL OVER MY NOSE!

YEOW! I'VE GOT IT! I'LL BORROW DAD'S TYPEWRITER— I CAN ALWAYS WRITE WITH ONE FINGER!

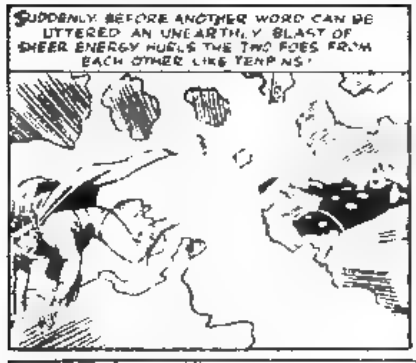
ER- JUST BORROWING THIS FOR A TICK!
ZOOOOM!

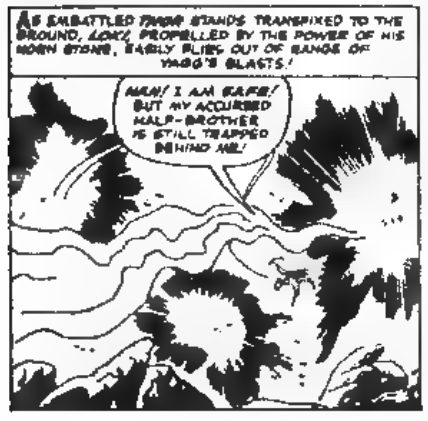
ERK! WHAT DID I DO NOW?

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE GOING TO DO BEFORE YOU BORROW THAT, MY LAD!

IT'S A BATH FOR YOU! HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET THAT INK ALL OVER YOURSELF?
WAA-AAH! NOT A BATH! ANYTHING BUT THAT!

BAH! SANTA'S AS BAD AS THE REST OF THEM! IF IT WASN'T FOR HIM I WOULDN'T BE IN THIS BLINKING BATH!





YOU'VE JUST READ A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE FIRST PART OF ONE OF THE GREATEST THUNDER GOD TALES EVER SCRIPTED! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?? WELL, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF... **TODAY!...** IN **THIS WEEK'S...**

FANTASTIC

9¢

NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.!

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE LAW-ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group 1966

THIS WILL MEAN PANDEMONIUM FOR US ALL! NOT ONLY DID WE CAPTURE A LIVING ROBOT, BUT WE ALSO ROB OUR TECHNICIANS TO ANALYZE...
...BUT ONE WHICH WILL GAIN US ACCESS TO SHIELD INSTALLATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD! NO SHIELD AGENT WOULD REFUSE ADMISSION TO THE GREAT NICK FURY!
YES! WITH THIS ROBOT, WE CAN LITERALLY DESTROY SHIELD WITHIN RAYS!
HURRY! GET THAT DUMMY OUT OF HERE! OUR LEADERS WILL WANT TO BEGIN WORK ON THE ROBOT IMMEDIATELY!

I CAN'T HELP FEELING UNEASY! IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE WE HAVE ESCAPED DETECTION!
IMPOSSIBLE? WITH AIM'S SCIENTIFIC SUPERIORITY? OUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES HAVE COMPLETELY NEUTRALIZED EVERY POSSIBLE ALARM SYSTEM...
AND OUR WEAPONS STUNNED THE GUARDS BEFORE THEY COULD UTTER A SOUND! REST ASSURED...

THE OTHER SECTIONS OF SHIELD COULD NOT POSSIBLY KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED!
NOW, AIN'T THAT LITTLE TIN SOLDIER IN FOR A SURPRISE!

WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR, DUGAN?
WHY SIT HERE AND LET THOSE CREEPS MAKE MONKEYS OUT OF US?
WE AIN'T EXACTLY SITTING-- BUT WE AIN'T FIGHTING EITHER! NOT TILL WE GET THE SIGNAL FROM NICK FURY, ANYWAY!
WHERE IS THE COLONEL? WE SAW HIM COME IN WITH YOU, BUT THEN HE DISAPPEARED..
SHUT UP! THERE'S WHAT I'M WAITING FOR! QUIT MOVING YOUR JAWS AND START LIFTING YOUR FEET!

MOVE IT, YOU MEATHEADS! WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR OUR LITTLE PATTY-CAKE PARTY WITH THEM AIM HOT-SHOTS!
WHAT PARTY, DUM DUM? YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US WHAT'S HAPPENING!
AW, SHAME ON ME! IMAGINE KEEPING SECRETS FROM YOU HEROES LIKE THIS!
ANY OF YOU THAT AIN'T FIGURED OUT YET THAT WE'RE GOING TO USE PLAN BLUE OUGHT TO GO BACK TO BEING BOY SCOUTS!

THAT'S WHAT I ADMIRE ABOUT OUR MR DUGAN! HE'S SO SWEET-TEMPERED!
YEAH! MORE FUN THAN A BATHTUB FULL OF CROCODILES!
CLAM UP YOU BUNCH OF GRINNING APES! I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID!
WHEN I WANT COMEDY, I'LL TUNE IN THE MARX BROTHERS! RIGHT NOW, I WANT ACTION...
CHECK YOUR WEAPONS! WE GOT US A FIGHT AHEAD, IN CASE YOU AIN'T YET GUESSED!

SWIFTLY, SILENTLY THE MAGNETIC-POWERED SHIELD CRAFT MOVES THROUGH AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE
MAN, I SURE WISH OLD GABE JONES WAS WITH US! THERE'S ONE HANDY GUY IN A FRACAS!
YOU SAID IT, CHUM! WHY, I REMEMBER ONE TIME HE
CUT THE CHATTER AN' GET READY! WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

AND, AT A HIDDEN AIRFIELD, THE AIM AGENTS PREPARE TO LOAD THEIR PRIZE ONTO A WAITING AIRCRAFT..
IT WAS THOUGHTFUL OF SHIELD TO BUILD THIS LANDING AREA SO NEAR THEIR HEADQUARTERS!
ANY SIGN OF PURSUIT?
OF COURSE NOT! WE MADE A PERFECT ESCAPE-- EXACTLY AS WE PLANNED!

THEN
THE ROBOT! SOMEONE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY ACTIVATED IT!
QUICKLY CUT OFF ITS GENERATOR...
WAIT! IT'S REACHING FOR SOMETHING BEHIND ITS BACK! IT SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING SOME PRE-SET PLAN!
GOTTA GET MY GUN CLEAR BEFORE THESE CLOWNS REALIZE THEY'VE BEEN LUGGIN THE REAL NICK FURY!

THIS NEW ROCKET BLASTER PACKS A WALLOP LIKE A SMALL HOWITZER! IT OUGHT TO KEEP MY PLAYMATES HERE TILL DUM DUM'S CREW ARRIVES!
THEY WERE SO SURE THEY HAD A DECOY, THEY DIDN'T THINK TO LOOK FOR ANY WEAPONS!
WE'VE BEEN TRICKED! LOOK OUT!

IT'S FURY AMMUNELA!! GET HIM... UNNNGH!

AIN'T HE THE SMART LITTLE ONE!

EVEN A GORILLA LIKE ME LOOKS GOOD WHEN HE'S USIN' A TONY STARK WEAPON! I PUT MY SHOT IN THE GENERAL AREA OF THAT HEAP'S FUEL TANK...

VAROOM

FOOMF

...AN STARK'S NITROGEN PROJECTILE TAKES IT FROM THERE!

SCRATCH ONE AIM AIRCRAFT!

VOOMMMM

THERE GO THE REST OF THE TANKS!

THIS CAPSULE AIN'T EXACTLY A FALL OUT SHELTER, BUT IT'S BETTER'N NOTHIN'!

YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE AIM, FURY...

IF DUM DUM'S BOYS DON'T GET HERE SOON, THERE WON'T BE ANY AIM GUYS LEFT TO FIGHT!

THOUGH THE OTHERS DARE NOT RETURN, AT LEAST I SHALL RETAIN FAVOUR WITH MY SUPERIORS...

...BY BRINGING THEM NEWS OF YOUR DEATH! AIM SHALL TRIUMPH!

THAT GUY MUST BE THE JASPER SITWELL OF AIM...

I GUESS IN EVERY OUTFIT THERE'S ONE GUY WHO'S JUST GOT TO MAKE SPEECHES!

PLANETA

VOOMMMM!

BUT I AIN'T IN THE MOOD FOR BIG TALK JUST NOW!

IF YOU SHOT AS GOOD AS YOU TALK, SONNY, YOU'D BE A REAL WORLD-BEATER!

WHERE IN BLAZES IS DUM DUM? HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE AT LEAST A MINUTE AGO!

AT THE FAR END OF THE FIELD, A SECTION OF THE ASPHALT SEEMS TO MELT INTO NOTHINGNESS, AND FROM IT EMERGES THE SHIELD SAUCER...

LOOK! THERE'S SOME KIND OF PLANE IN FLAMES!

I SEE IT--BUT I DON'T SEE NICK FURY!

I ONLY HOPE WE AIN'T TOO LATE!

MEANWHILE, AT SHIELD'S HELI-CARRIER HEAD-QUARTERS, HOVERING HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH. A STRANGE SEARCH HAS BEGUN...

WHAT DID THE C.O. MEAN WHEN HE SAID TO LOOK FOR NICK FURY'S BODY?

I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, BUT THE SCUTTLEBUTT WAS IT THAT FURY JUMPED FROM THE CARRIER!*

ALL HELICOPTERS COMMENCE SEARCH PATTERN M! REPEAT: ALL HELICOPTERS COMMENCE SEARCH PATTERN M!

*AN EVENT UNFORGETTABLY RECORDED IN OUR LAST ISSUE! ---BART.

I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT MADE FURY TAKE ...THAT WAY OUT!

I'M CERTAIN THE JUDGES WOULD HAVE RULED IN HIS FAVOUR, NO MAN IS MORE FIT TO COMMAND SHIELD THAN NICK FURY!

I KEEP HOPING THAT SOMEHOW NICK WILL BE FOUND ALIVE! BUT NO HUMAN COULD SURVIVE THAT FALL!

I DARE NOT TELL THEM ABOUT THE COLONEL'S HIDDEN PARACHUTE, UNTIL COUNT ROYALE REVEALS HIMSELF FOR THE SCOUNDREL HE IS!

AT LAST, AIM IS FREE OF ITS GREATEST ENEMY! MY MISSION HERE IS ACCOMPLISHED!

I ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT BENEATH HIS SNOBBERY AND MANNERISMS, FURY WAS A COWARD! AND I WAS CORRECT! FOR, HE TOOK A COWARD'S WAY OUT AT THE END!

BUT, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE NO LONGER STANDS BETWEEN US AND TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF SHIELD!

ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE CLEAR THE WAR ROOM!

CIVILIANS, GO TO YOUR ASSIGNED WAITING ROOMS! MILITARY PERSONNEL --STAND BY FOR FURTHER ORDERS!

AH HA! ROYALE PREPARES TO MAKE HIS ESCAPE!

BUT AGENT SITWELL IS NOT TO BE CAUGHT UNPREPARED!

ANTHONY STARK IS NOT THE ONLY INVENTOR WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION OF SHIELD!

WHILE STILL A STUDENT AT THE SHIELD ACADEMY, I DEVISED THIS RESPIRATORY-POWERED PROJECTILE HURLER!

MY WEAPONS INSTRUCTOR FOOLISHLY IMAGINED THAT I WAS MERELY PLAYING A CHILDISH PRANK WHEN I TRIED TO EXPLAIN HOW I ADAPTED THE LOWLY BEAN SHOOTER TO SERVE AS A DEVICE FOR PROJECTING A TINY RADIO TRANSMITTER!

THERE! THE TRANSMITTER IS LODGED BENEATH ROYALE'S JACKET! ITS SIGNALS WILL ENABLE US TO LOCATE HIM INSTANTLY--NO MATTER HOW CLEVER HIS CAMOUFLAGE!

I MUST HURRY! MY PLANE IS WAITING, AND I DO NOT WANT TO MISS THE FINAL FALL OF SHIELD!

PTU!

BIK

BY NOW, OUR TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED THE LIFE MODEL DECOY OF FURY! WE CAN BEGIN THE ULTIMATE PHASE OF OUR PLAN--THE PLAN WHICH WILL MAKE AIM THE MOST POWERFUL ORGANIZATION ON EARTH!

NOW THAT ROYALE HAS VACATED THE PREMISES, I CAN DELIVER COLONEL FURY'S MESSAGE TO THESE GENTLEMEN!

ONE MOMENT, IF YOU PLEASE! I HAVE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU ALL!

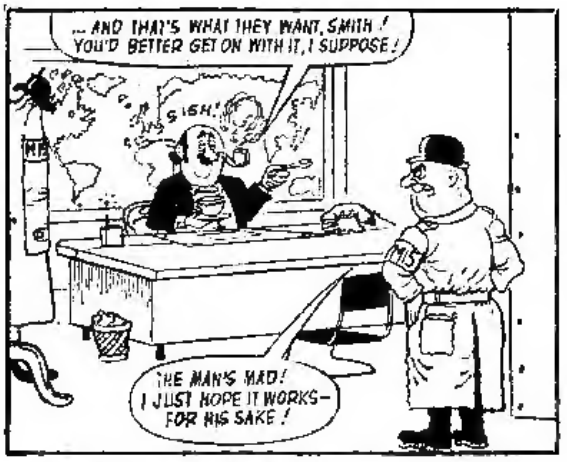
WHO'S HE TO BE GIVING US INSTRUCTIONS?

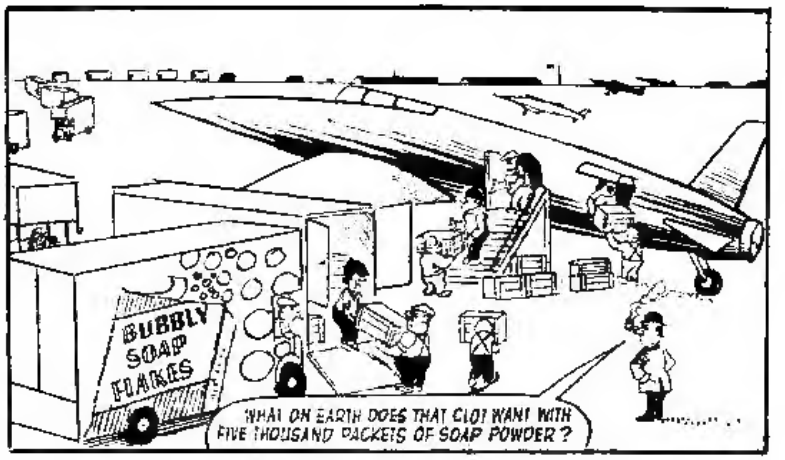
I DON'T KNOW! BUT, FURY SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT OF CONFIDENCE IN HIM! WE'D BETTER LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS!

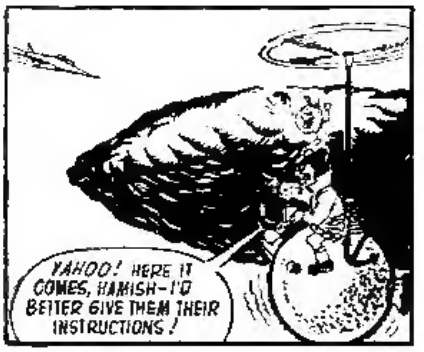
FURY FIGHTS ON--NEXT WEEK! BE HERE!!

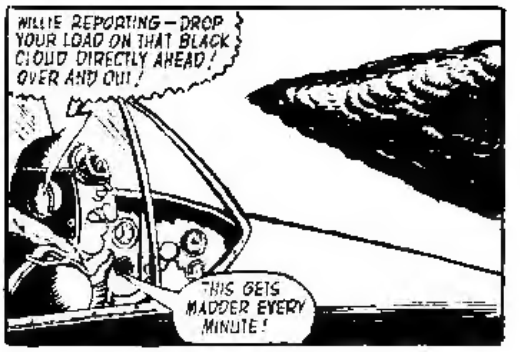
WEE WILLIE HAGGIS

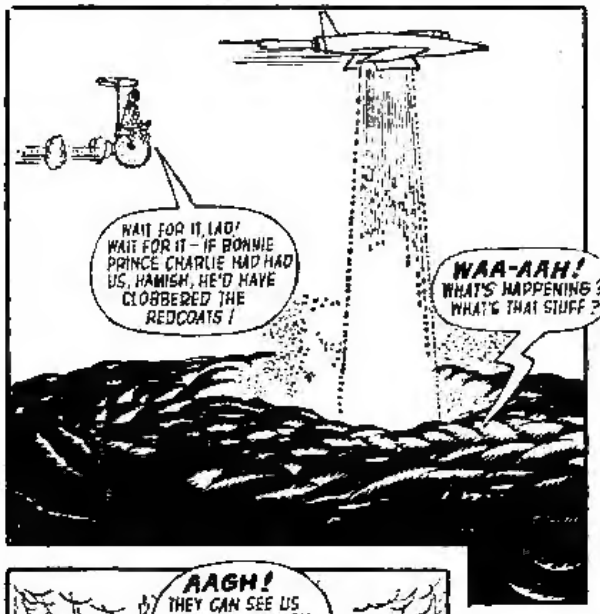
THE SPY FROM SKYE

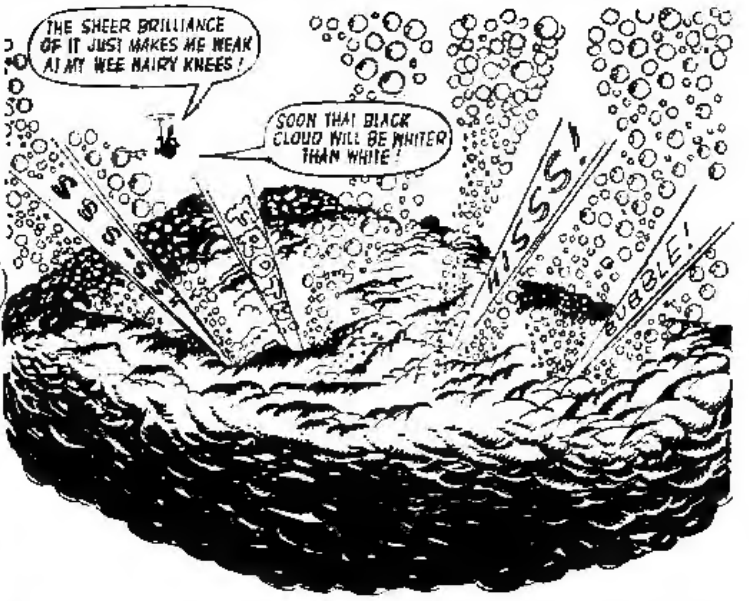












TOW 1 printed in Great Britain by Southernprint Limited, Branksome, Poole, Dorset, and published by Odhams Press Ltd., Long Acre, London, W.C.2. Sole agents for Australia and New Zealand, Gordon & Gotch (A/sia) Ltd.; South Africa, Central News Agency Ltd. Subscription Rates: Inland, 12 months 42/-; abroad (including Canada), 12 months 39/-; Dollar Rate for U.S.A. $8; Canada $6.50. Please send your order to Subscription Dept., 8-8 Long Acre, London, W.C.2.
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